

Nepesta Bridge
Spanning the Arkansas River,
on County Road 613
Boone vicinity
Pueblo County
Colorado

HAER No. CO-55

HAER
COLO,
51- B00.V
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Nepesta Bridge

HAER No. CO-55

Location: Spanning the Arkansas River, on County Road 613
Boone vicinity, Pueblo County, Colorado

UTM: 13.575440/4225830
Quad: Nepesta

Date of Construction: 1905

Builder/Designer: Pueblo Bridge Company

Present Owner: Pueblo County
Pueblo County Courthouse
211 West 10th Street
Pueblo, colorado 81003

Original Use: Roadway bridge

Present Use: Roadway bridge

Significance: The only roadway truss left in Pueblo County over the Arkansas River after the 1921 flood, the Nepesta Bridge has served as a regionally-important crossing on the major east-west artery in southeast Colorado for decades. It is a typically configured and structurally unaltered example of the early mainstay truss type, the pin-connected Pratt through truss. Placed in a rural setting beside a through girder of the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, it is an important early vehicular bridge.

Compilers: Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg
Fraserdesign
Loveland, Colorado
February 8, 1984

HISTORY

By early November 1905, the existing bridge over the Arkansas River on the Santa Fe Trail near Nepesta had been allowed to deteriorate to the point that it needed replacement. The Pueblo County Board of Commissioners delegated the responsibility to the Road and Bridge Committee, which in turn contracted with the Pueblo Bridge Company to erect the new bridge. Using steel components rolled by the Cambria Steel Works, the bridge company completed this two-span Pratt through truss early the following year. The Nepesta Bridge has functioned in place since then, surviving the horrendous flood of the Arkansas River in June 1921. With the rerouting of the highway into U. S. 40, it has been relegated to county road status and remains in unaltered and well-maintained condition.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The bridge is a pin-connected, 6-panel steel Pratt through truss.

Span length:	2
Span length:	106'0"
Overall length:	283'0"
Overall height:	17'10"
Clearance height:	13'0"
Roadway width:	15'10"
End/top chord:	2 channels with cover and batten plates
Bottom chord:	2 rectangular eyebars
Vertical:	2 channels with lacing; 2 angles with lacing
Diagonal:	2 rectangular eyebars; 1 round eyebar with turnbuckle
Floor/Decking:	asphalt over timber deck with timber stringers
Substructure:	steel-cased concrete piers with concrete wingwalls

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Structure Inventory and Appraisal: PUCO O.98-601F. Colorado Department of Highways, Denver, Colorado.

Pueblo County Commissioners' Minutes: November 10, 1905 (Book 14, page 397). Pueblo County Courthouse, Pueblo, Colorado.

Builder's plate on bridge portal: "1905 Built by Pueblo Bridge Co. Pueblo, Colo."

Ralph C. Taylor. "Pueblo Completes Bridge Program," Colorado Highways, Vol. 4 Number 4 (April 1925), pages 4-5.

Field Inspection by Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg, September 6, 1983.